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SUMMER

GATEWAY

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

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Students become familiar with UNO

By Melanie S. Williams

Forentering freshmen confusion over where to find a bathroom on campus can be disastrous or — at the very least, frustrating.

To help eliminate the common problems facing new collegiates, UNO held several orientation sessions consisting of information seminars, campus tours and early registration for classes.

Orientation began with a session in May and ended Wednesday evening.

Julie Petr, one of the 26 students hired as orientation leaders, said she was compelled to help because of her past experience as a freshman.

"It was really frustrating. I thought, 'I'm going to help someone else have an easier time

than I had.'"

Petr said the most common questions entering students ask are: "How many classes are full-time?"; "What classes are open and closed?"; and of course, "Where is the bathroom?"

Orientation Leader Chad Schuttler said, "Really serious students want to know about the library."

However, Petr added, "the biggest highlight is the HPER (Health, Physical Education and Recreation) building. Everyone loves the HPER building."

Joseph Hall, director of orientation, said potential orientation leaders are recommended by faculty members, advisors and other leaders.

"We look for students who are involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities and have high GPAs (grade point averages), and students

who are excited to be here at UNO," Hall said.

Hall said the orientation department has set a goal of about 35 leaders a year, which has more than doubled from two years ago when it had fewer than 15.

Petr said orientation leaders receive about 55 to 60 hours of training with pay — equivalent to a five-credit course, only without the studying and tuition costs.

According to Petr, sometimes there is a need for more orientation leaders.

"We do get a bit short-handed sometimes," she said. Most people have other jobs and it's hard for them to spare the time it takes to be a leader."

One student said, "It was long, (but) I would have felt nervous not knowing how to fill out all the forms."

Orientation leader Chad Schuttler
leads a group of incoming freshmen.

—James DeSordi

'Kids don't know as much as you think'

Teens high risk for STDs

By Amy Bull

Nebraska teen-agers have dangerous misconceptions about sex and how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) according to recent surveys and conversations conducted by the Douglas County Health Department.

The results indicated many teens believe birth control pills are effective protection against AIDS and other STDs.

Roseann Mastio from the health department said the latex condom is the only birth control method that provides protection against AIDS and other STDs because it provides a physical barrier between sexual partners.

"Condoms made out of natural membranes are not effective because they're porous and the viruses are so small they get through," Mastio said.

However, while 60 percent of in-school Nebraska teens are sexually active, only 21 percent use condoms during sexual intercourse.

According to the health department, 50 percent of all STDs in Nebraska are found among 15- to 19-year-olds.

Seventy-five percent of Nebraska's AIDS cases are within the 20- to 29-year-old age category, but since AIDS has an eight to ten year incubation period, most of those cases were infected while they were teens.

Although sex education programs may be available through some schools and religious classes, teens are still not correctly informed about STDs.

"Kids don't know as much as you think about

sexuality," said Jean Ann Ballinger, director of education at Planned Parenthood of Omaha-Council Bluffs.

Ballinger said children should be informed about sex, at any age, based on their development.

"Parents should even start talking about sex at age two or three by using correct terminology," she said. "Not about sexual intercourse, but about the basics."

According to Ballinger, if parents would talk to their children about sex, teens would likely delay having sexual intercourse and be more likely to use a method of birth control.

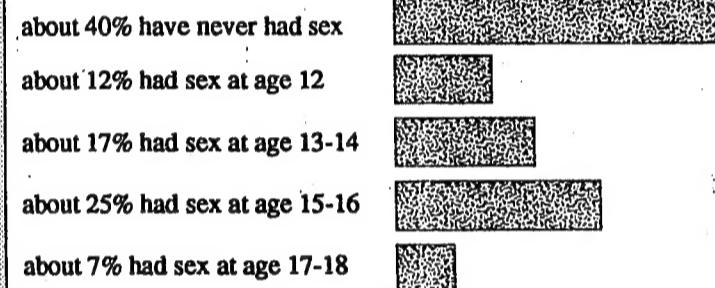
"If parents were more open to discussion, there would be fewer unplanned teen pregnancies," Ballinger said.

The health department has a program for parents on how to talk to their children about sex.

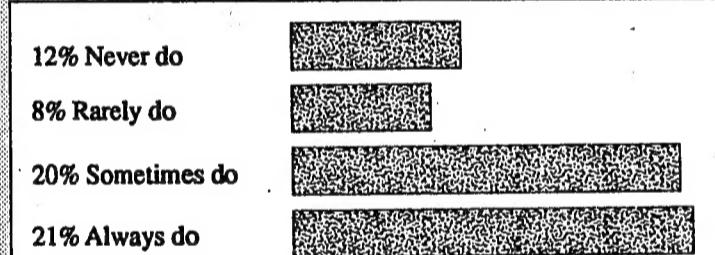
"Kids should never remember a point in their lives when they got the 'sex talk,'" Mastio said. "But sex education should be a part of life which could even start with talking about the birds and the bees."

Mastio and Ballinger agree that early discussions with teens make them feel more comfortable with asking questions about sex when they reach puberty.

"Providing educational information in a supportive and confidential manner, talking to kids, and honestly answering all their questions is the best way we have to give hope for the future," Ballinger said.



When did you first have sex?



How often do you use a condom?

Sex Survey of Nebraska Teens

Information provided from 1989 Douglas County Health Department survey.

Graph by Daniel Crawford

UNL chancellor position unfilled

Group of candidates down to four after Kuipers withdraws

By Elizabeth Merrill

The fog of uncertainty surrounding the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) chancellorship may soon be cleared.

After reviewing hundreds of prospects, a UNL search committee narrowed the candidates to five and forwarded the names to NU President Martin Massengale on June 24.

Since then, one candidate withdrew from contention for the job. According to the *Omaha World-Herald*, Judith Kuipers, an

administrator at California State University-Fresno, withdrew when she accepted the chancellorship at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

The search for a chancellor, which began in May, included 239 nominees and applications. Joe Rowson, director of public affairs, called the prospects "239 high-caliber candidates."

He added, "The chairman and the search committee were well-satisfied with their selection of the five."

The other four candidates, Herman Lujan of Washington University, Albert K. Kamig of Wyoming, Graham B. Spanier of Oregon State, and James R. Coffman of Kansas State, visited the UNL campus recently.

J.B. Milliken, executive assistant to Massengale, said the people on campus "seemed pleased with the opportunity to meet the candidates and offer their views."

Milliken said each candidate had a chance to meet with many individuals and organizations on campus, including Massengale, chancellors from the other NU campuses, student leaders and local groups such as the Status of Women and Minorities.

Now that the candidates have had an opportunity to visit the campus, Milliken said Massengale would make his decision soon. "His current intention is to make his recommendation to the board at the next regents meeting."

The meeting will be held September 6 in Lincoln.

'It worked great' Organ transplant saves a life

By Greg Kozol

On May 17, 1991, Lonnie Peterson, along with his mother and brother, ate a banana split at Ted & Wally's ice cream shop in the Old Market.

It was hardly a momentous event. Except for Lonnie.

For Peterson, a 47-year-old salesman at AT&T, eating that banana split signified the end of an era — and the beginning of a new one.

Diagnosed as a diabetic at age 16, Peterson had lived through 31 years of drawing his own blood samples, injecting himself with insulin daily, and abstaining from banana splits.

But on May 3, 1991, all that changed. During a six-hour operation at Clarkson Hospital, Peterson received a new pancreas and kidney. After 31 years, he was no longer diabetic.

"I wasn't sure at first, you become so ingrained in your way of life," Peterson said. "I went to Ted & Wally's to test the pancreas out. It worked great."

The pancreas is a gland that secretes the insulin vital for sugar metabolism. Diabetics do not produce the needed amount of insulin.

Peterson said since he is no longer diabetic he has a new-found freedom.

"It's nice to just be able to get up and go and not having to worry about anything," he said.

Peterson is not the only person who has seen diabetes become a thing of the past.

Since 1989, the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Clarkson Hospital have combined to perform 51 pancreas transplants and 42 pancreas-kidney transplants. In 1990, 549 pancreas transplants were performed in the United States.

The Medical Center/Clarkson pancreas transplant program, the fourth largest in the United States, has a 94 percent success rate.

Dr. Robert Stratton, director of transplantation at Clarkson and a professor of surgery at the Medical Center, called the pancreas procedure a "quantum leap" for diabetics.

"The patients really are grateful in the long term," Stratton said. "In the short term, there are a few bumps. But it certainly improves the quality of life."

Although he must take anti-rejection medication for the rest of his life, Peterson said he is glad his days as a diabetic are over.

"I've met a lot of people who have had this operation," Peterson said. "I don't think any of them regret it."

About one year ago, doctors discovered Peterson had only one kidney, which was failing because it had to compensate for the pancreas.

"They said within two years, I'd be on kidney dialysis," he said. "So I was put on a high-priority list for organs."

Doctors found an organ match for Peterson, and it saved his life.

"The greatest thing is being able to eat what you want when you want. It's like being a kid in a candy store, and everything is a penny a piece."



—Ed Carlson

Lonnie Peterson, who recently received a kidney and pancreas transplant, said it is the "greatest thing ... like being a kid in a candy store."

GATEWAY

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Ghosts at the Gateway ???

There's something strange going on at the *Gateway*, and I'm not talking about hanky-panky.

I'm not the only one that has heard it — loud thumping late at night, doors slamming and strange voices. Other staff members have said the same thing — that there is a ghost in the *Gateway* building.

I must admit, I don't know if I really believe in ghosts. But I'm open-minded enough to see if there is anything to the *Gateway* ghost — as we call it.

Finding someone to investigate these strange occurrences isn't as easy as looking in the Yellow Pages under "Ghostbusters." But I asked around, and someone hooked me up with Dale Bacon, a Lincoln machinist interested in unknown phenomena.

Bacon is a member of the Fortean Research Center — a Lincoln-based organization that explores unexplained phenomena such as alleged UFO and ghost sightings.

Dale came to the *Gateway* building, Annex 26, on Wednesday. He said he had "butterflies" in his stomach when he saw the building. "That doesn't usually happen," he said.

Before getting started, I asked Dale about his paranormal hobby.

In 1973, Dale said, he saw what may have been a ghost.

"I was at an old farmhouse in central Iowa," he said. "Some

SUMMER FLING WITH GREG KOZOL

college buddies and I were shooting the breeze when I saw something out of the corner of my eye. Standing in the kitchen, I could easily make out the figure of an old woman."

Dale said he and his friends were the only ones in the farmhouse. One of those friends asked Dale to describe the figure.

"I said she was very old with billowy shoulders," Dale said. "But the thing that stuck out was her hands; they curled up in front of her chest like claws."

"My friend said I gave an accurate description of his grandmother, who used to live in the farm house. She had died a few years earlier. He said her hands were curled up because of arthritis. I had never met the woman or seen a picture of her."

"Since then," Dale continued, "I believed there was something else out there in this world."

But enough with the ghost stories.

Dale, *Gateway* Advertising Manager Shannan Johnson and myself took a look around the house.

"I'll do everything I can to disprove a haunting," Dale said.

I told Dale how late at night, staff members have reported hearing the side door open and close, footsteps going up stairs, and loud thuds on the top floor. No one has ever been seen upstairs when it happens, I said, and we never hear the door open again.

"That's very common of a haunting," Dale said.

Other alleged mischief from the *Gateway* ghost:

• I called Shannan at the *Gateway* one night, only to hear a bizarre scream on the other line. Shannan swears it wasn't her.

• Shannan and I were eating in the kitchen one day when a voice whispered, "hi." "What did you say?" we asked each other. No one else was in the building, and we'd both been away for awhile, so we figured the *Gateway* ghost was lonely.

• Shannan, two other staff members and myself tried to talk to the ghost via Ouija Board one night. The ghost said his name was Arnold, he had a wife named Beebe, and he used to write for the *New Orleans Star* in the '30s. We later found out the *Star* was an occult newspaper in the '30s.

So what does it mean? Is the *Gateway* haunted? Or am I going psycho?

Dale said it's not the most blatant case he's seen. A Lincoln woman claimed a ghost dragged her Christmas tree across the floor.

Dale said he tends to believe the woman, and he hasn't ruled out the *Gateway* ghost.

"It's an interesting case," he said. "I don't think it's the house settling. But there's no way to tell 100 percent."

Dale left, saying to contact him if anything new develops. Until then, I'll be on my own, working late at night and listening to those thuds upstairs.

If it really is a ghost, I'm not scared. I'm part of the Ghostbusters generation. I think ghosts are quite groovy.

Next week: A tearful goodbye. Or... How to pray your way through college.



People want the 'gory stuff'

Many people, when asked why they do not read a newspaper, respond that there is simply too much "bad news."

Bad news. Bad news is news about people dying, war, abused children and abandoned puppies who were killed.

Bad news is news about Jeffrey Dahmer, who is accused of killing and dismembering 17 people. It is also about Harold Lamont Otey, who raped and brutally murdered a woman more than 10 years ago and is appealing his sentence of death.

Why is bad news the stuff you see so much of?

Because deep down, most people want to hear the gory details about the bad news.

How many people haven't seen a photograph of the freezer with body parts in it being wheeled out of Dahmer's home?

How many people don't know about Otey and the havoc created by his impending death in the electric chair?

Damn few.

Everyone may not know the names, but if someone said, "Did you hear about the guy who killed all those people and then chopped them up into little tiny pieces?", more than likely your

answer would be, "Yes."

It seems, rather, that people want to know the really gory stuff.

How many body parts did they find at Dahmer's? Were they decomposed? Did he really eat some of his victims? How could he do it?

How long after Otey killed her did they find her? Was there really blood in every room of the house? How could he do that?

Perhaps the reason people want to really hear about the gory details is to try to understand how something like that could happen.

Perhaps our society has bred a sense of morbid curiosity into people.

In a world that has become highly specialized and automatic, maybe people need to hear these kinds of things to keep them in touch with reality.

Whatever the reasons, people want to hear about the news — even when it is bad, and they prove it every time they pick up a paper or listen to the news.

People have become millionaires based on the premise that people want to hear the bad stuff.

STAFF EDITORIAL BAD NEWS

'Holy rollers' badger visitor

Recently, while on a relaxing vacation to Chicago, I had the utter joy and pleasure of having someone care so much about me that they tried to save me... from what?

Apparently myself.

I am writing about fundamentalist Christians (yes, ladies and gentlemen, they do exist). These particular Christians were trying to save me and make sure my soul had eternal life — right.

Now before anyone goes and gets all upset, I don't have a problem with Christians; I don't even have a problem with fundamentalists, what I do have a problem with is the insistent behavior that compels some people to tell you about God and Jesus Christ (regardless of your personal beliefs) until you want to scream, "OK, OK! I give up! I'll change! I'll be just like you — just quit nagging at me!"

I am usually one to be rather tolerant towards other peoples' opinions and views,

right up until the time they start telling me that my life, as it is, is not worth living until I do something. In this case it was accepting Jesus as my lord and savior.

I understand what these people are doing, they are witnessing and trying to show others the joy and pleasure they

receive through their membership in a particular religious organization. I think it is great they are that happy and want to tell everyone about it.

But is it really necessary to badger people?

All badgering seems to do is to irritate the people who supposedly need saved and since many people, when irri-

ANOTHER VIEW FUNDAMENTALISTS

tated, are in the midst of unpleasant thoughts, I would think it would be nearly impossible for them to accept anything into their lives, even God.

Christianity is like everything else, some people are going to like it and others are not, since that seems to be a universal truth, it would be great if those Christians who badger others would realize that. Not everyone wants to be saved.

Unfortunately, for Christians who do not badger and try to change other people against their will, things like this give the whole religion a bad name.

Heldi Jeanne Hess is a senior journalism major

summer camp

In her high-top tennis shoes and matching pink outfit, Jennifer Smisek, 10, moves rhythmically to the pop music blaring from a stereo a few feet away.

About 50 people move about the park pavilion, which has become a makeshift dance floor for a few hours. Jennifer pauses only long enough to get something to drink or to join a group of dancers.

"This is the first dance I've ever been to," she said.

Her energy and intention to keep dancing give little indication that she suffers from a disease that weakens her muscles. Jennifer's parents, Virginia and Bob Smisek of Omaha, learned of Jennifer's disease, dermatomyositis, when she was 5. It also causes a rash on her face, knees and knuckles, and is one of 40 diseases covered by the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Jennifer and 44 other children with neuromuscular diseases participated in an annual MDA summer camp July 20-27.

The camp, sponsored by Electronic Information Systems Inc. of Connecticut, offered the MDA patients a chance to participate in activities they are often excluded from in everyday life. Dancing, swimming, visiting the zoo and playing baseball are just a few of the activities on the

camp agenda.

"We try to do everything you do at a normal camp. We just make everything handicapped accessible," Michelle Smith-Goodman said. As patient service coordinator for the Greater Nebraska Region of MDA, Smith-Goodman has directed the camp for two years.

"It's a week where they're totally among themselves," she said. "They're not competing with kids who don't have a handicap."

Smith-Goodman, a 1988 UNO graduate, starts preparing early in the year for the camp, open free of charge to MDA patients ages 6 to 21.

In choosing activities, Smith-Goodman and other members of the MDA staff take suggestions from former camp counselors and patients.

"We get their input so it's not just a bunch of adults planning a camp for kids," she said.

As well as the activities MDA plans, community organizations donate time to making the camp a success. This year the Budweiser Baseball Team and Capitol Liquors Inc. sponsored a Wednesday night barbecue. And local firefighters showed up with their engines to help clean up after a shaving cream fight.



A playground is often off-limits to a child in a wheelchair. With some help from counselor Bobbi Travis, Danielle Fuchtman, 6, gets a touch of freedom on a swing.



Counselors and campers head to lunch at the annual MDA summer camp at the Gene Eppley Savation Ar

The camp gives kids some freedom, Jon Gabriel said. Confined to a wheelchair because of a joint disorder, Gabriel, 19, has attended camp for 10 years. He is a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I feel some parents are overprotective of their kids and this will let them loose for awhile," Gabriel said. "Little kids are scared at first, but once they get older, they see how much fun

it is."

Since most of the MDA patients require special attention, each camper is paired with his or her own counselor.

"A lot of kids are sensitive about their problems. With one-on-one, they really share all of their emotions," UNO sophomore Susan Weidner said. Weidner is one of 54 high school and college students who volunteered as counselors at the camp.

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The friendships formed between counselors and campers often last from year to year.

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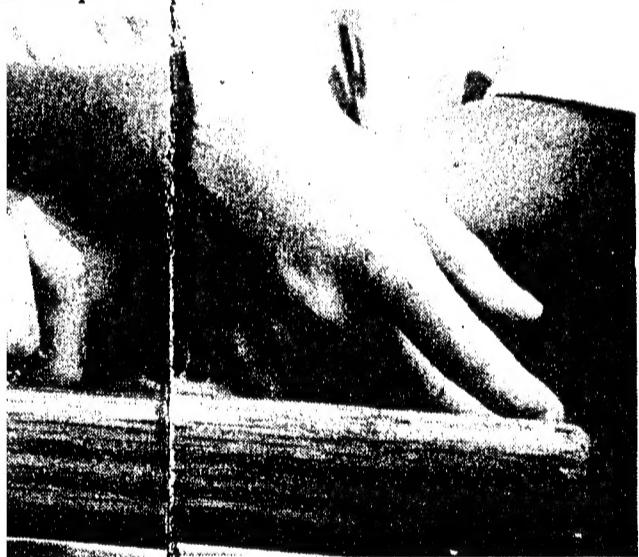


Gene Eppley Savation Army Camp south of Bellevue.

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the camp.

Since the primary type of muscular dystrophy, Duchenne, progresses from childhood through adolescence, life expectancy for patients is in the early 20s. MDA and medical organizations continue to search for a cure. UNO junior Michelle Gryczanowski said those people considering volunteering as counselors need to be emotionally prepared to handle some realities.

"You have to be mentally strong to know these kids aren't



ined between counselors
ast from year to year.

Jonathon Futrell, 6 (left), and his uncle, Earl Futrell, 9, take a break from the MDA camp activities to catch a ride on a merry-go-round with counselor Carrie Jahde. Jonathon and Earl both have Duchenne, the most common form of muscular dystrophy.

going to be here forever," she said.

Gryczanowski has been a counselor at the camp for five years and said she finds the experience "very rewarding."

"I think the best part is giving something of yourself and making them have the best time of their life," she said. "One year you come and you can't stop coming."

The emotional toll of becoming attached to a child with muscular dystrophy is one Jim Culhane of Wichita, Kan., said he can no longer put himself through. Culhane, who has volunteered at 25 camps since 1980, decided to stop being a counselor after the child he had been paired with for 7 years at the Wichita camp died.

"I've seen kids go from walking, to a chair, to a box," he said. "Right after Chris died, I considered not coming out."

While he no longer serves as a counselor, Culhane has taken on an advisory role to assist the MDA staff running the camp. Culhane said counselors need to know how important the camp is to the kids.

"It gets them out of the house for a week, which doesn't sound like a big deal, but it's huge to them. It gives them a sense of normality," Culhane said. "Some (counselors) will find this to be the most enriching enlightening week of their life."

After being a counselor for six years, Lara Trout of Omaha returned this year to work on the camp staff and to help coordinate activities.

"It's great to see the kids do things they can't do other places. Here it's barrier free," she said. "No one here is superficial. Everybody fits in. That's very important."

April Himmelschr, 12, said she thinks the counselors do a great job in making sure everyone has fun.

"They really teach us that kids like us are not always the same and that we can have fun in more than one place," she said. "This week has been so much fun and I've met so many new friends."

April and her brother, Andrew, are affected by the same muscular disease, which requires April to wear braces on her legs. Their mother and stepfather, Debra and Terry Mount of Council Bluffs, said they can see how much April enjoys the camp. They plan to bring Andrew to camp next year when he is 6.

"We know this camp does good for her," Mrs. Mount said. "She looks forward to it all year."

John and Deanna Lakey of Kearney said their son Aaron, 12, also looks forward to the MDA camp. The Lakeys were told by doctors when Aaron was about 9 months old that he is afflicted with an unknown neuromuscular disease. Aaron, confined to a wheelchair, has attended camp for 2 years.

photos
by eric
francis



Since many MDA patients require individual attention, each child attending the camp is paired with his or her own counselor. One-on-one counseling enables the campers to take part in all camp activities.

"For someone who can be so dependent, it's nice for him to develop his independence," Mr. Lakey said.

On July 27, after a week of being able to stay up late and indulge in some other freedoms, Aaron and the other campers and counselors bid farewell to one another and headed back to their normal routines.

Aaron's enthusiasm about camp guarantees his return next year, his parents said.

"He's a social type person, so getting out with others and leaving home is no problem for him," Mrs. Lakey added.

Having enjoyed her first year at the MDA camp, Jennifer said she is "definitely coming back." Her mom doesn't doubt her intentions.

"She's already told me she's going to keep coming back until she's old enough and strong enough to come back and be a counselor," Mrs. Smisek said.



ON THE TOWN

THE GATEWAY'S WEEKLY ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Charlie Sheen is heroic renegade pilot "Topper" Harley in the outrageous send-up of flyboy films, "Hot Shots!"

Play offers humor and amusement

Last weekend for 'Red Hot Lovers'

By Elizabeth Tape

Completing an immensely successful nine-week run at the Firehouse Dinner Theater, Neil Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," directed by Rob Urbinati, closes this weekend.

Barney Cashman (Matt Camprath), it seems, feels the need to indulge in an extramarital affair. His problem then becomes locating an appropriate accomplice in this would-be tryst.

Barney's journey poses one obstacle after

another. And along its course, he encounters three women who are suffering to various degrees in their lives.

His first would-be co-adulterer, Elaine (Bridget Wiley), drinks incessantly and volubly and describes a loveless and painful marriage to a man for whom she clearly cares not at all.

Barney's second would-be partner, Bobbie (Katherine Hammond), stifles any unhappiness she may experience in a cloud of cannabis, and

with bizarre rituals of tossing unsettling feelings over her head in a devastating funny gesture.

The final character who appears to seek the role of Barney's lover, Jeanette (Laura Marr), turns out to be none other than the wife of his best friend, who it seems has entered into an extra-marital affair of his own.

Although the above words may provide an overview of the play, they do not begin to convey the incredible humor and amusement

the play offers in moment after moment.

For one, Camprath as Barney Cashman offers a bravura performance in this three-act work, in which he appears continuously. The breadth of his abilities to perform physical comedy leap off the stage; he is simply outstanding. Similarly, his capabilities to engage in rapid-fire verbal exchanges with his co-stars provide another avenue of delight.

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers" continues at the Firehouse Dinner Theater through Sunday.

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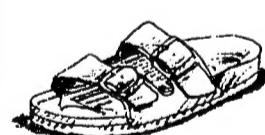
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